

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1-5 as being anticipated by Riehl et al or Murakami under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are each respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested in light of the following comments.

The Office Action asserts that Riehl et al teaches contact portions between the cover and base protrusions fixedly bonded to each other. Specifically, Figs. 4 and 5 of Riehl et al are cited to support this assertion. Applicants note, however, that Figs. 4 and 5 respectively show only conductor strip contact segments 36 fixedly bonded to a printed circuit board 6 and a cover separated from the housing frame. There is no teaching of the fixedly bonded connection which in the present invention improves productivity by eliminating the need for surface coatings that prevents short-circuits due to environmental factors.

The Office Action also asserts that Fig. 6 of Murakami shows all the claimed features. Fig. 6 of Murakami only shows a busbar 25 (presumably asserted to correspond with bus bars 22 of the present invention, but no protrusions between adjacent bus bars in a flexible region as claimed in the present invention.

Neither reference teaches or suggests the claimed invention. Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner deems any issues to remain outstanding, Applicant's undersigned representative would invite a personal interview with the Examiner

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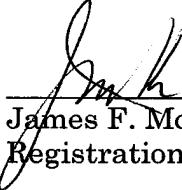
prior to issuance of any further written action if that would advance prosecution of this case.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056205.57703US).

Respectfully submitted,

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James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM/cee